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The
Black Caucus
Foundation
of Michigan

TESTIMONY

House Standing Committee on Health Policy
HB 4862 & 4863

The Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan is a non-partisan, non-profit 501-C3 corporation that has provided public policy research, advocacy and direct service programs since 1985. Among its direct services is the delivery of evidence and school-based ATOD (alcohol, tobacco and other drugs) prevention services to more than 2,000 public school students weekly based on a model developed by Foundation Collegiate Fellows at Wayne State University (Michigan's Response To Substance Abuse -1990) and funded initially from the 1992 Discretionary Fund of former Governor John Engler. In the 2010-11 fiscal year Foundation ATOD Prevention Services reached more than 16,000 families.

As the legislature examines coordinated service and administration of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment and Prevention Services we would request that it act with caution with amending statutes in a manner that have the unintentional consequence of eroding a current locales level of service or funding; or that mandates absorption of uncompensated costs that may be associated with coordinated administration and service delivery.

Specifically, as the City of Detroit and the County of Wayne have an administrative and operational delivery structure that is unique to other state jurisdictions, we urge caution in the progression of amendments to statute that mandate a single administration until full fiscal reviews of the feasibility of cost savings without an erosion of service are defined, as well as funding for associated coordination planning, maintenance of local and population specific service levels, operational governance and actual implementation.

As one of our priorities in 2012 is advocating for policies that link state-funded adolescent behavioral health service to K-12 education (*particularly in light of operational start-up of the Michigan Academic Achievement Authority*), we offer the following amendatory language to the Substitute for House Bill 4862 based on a fundamental policy position:

“The Black Caucus Foundation believes that the success of an improved academic achievement model in urban and poor school districts must include an intellectual paradigm shift that alters the perception that child health is but a by-product of education rather than a factor that affects and determines educational outcomes.”



January 26, 2012

Honorable Gail Haines, Chair; House Standing Committee on Health Policy

TESTIMONY HB 4862 & 4863, Representative Poleski, Sponsor

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It is from that policy position that the **Black Caucus Foundation of Michigan** supports for HB 4862 & HB 4863 with the following amendments to HB 4862:

Amend Page 6, line 13

Insert (D) An adolescent state ward facility

Amend Page 7, line 19

Insert (G) Non-violent social interaction

Amend Page 19, line 22

After "including" insert "early and"

Amend Page 21, line 8

After "to" insert "foster education preparedness, employability and preservation of ~~maintain~~

Respectfully Submitted :

Honorable KB Stallworth, PhD

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